CARTER WOULD AMEND KOHALA WATER LICENSE

He Declares His Opposition to Five Per Cent on Net Revenue, as He Believes It Should Be on Gross Revenue.

Secretary George R. Carter only yesterday found time to look into the Kohala water franchise, by way of preliminary scrutiny of its terms with which he will have to deal when he assumes the Governorship. He made a discovery in the advertisement of sale of the franchise at auction, issued by Land Commissioner E. S. Boyd, which disquieted him. This was in the prescribed condition that the purchaser of the franchise shall pay five per cent. of the net revenue from the privilege to the Territory.

After returning from his recent Territorial loan misson to Washington and New York, Mr. Carter was informed on the street that the five per cent. toll was to be on the gross revenue of the corporation gaining the privilege. His informants deemed this fair and good, as he himself did, but the discovery—which is what he confessed yesterday evening it was—that the levy was advertised to be on the net revenue made him conclude that the offered terms are bad and require to be altered.

"Yes, I will oppose it," Mr. Carter replied to a categorical question regarding the attitude he would assume toward the franchise in view of his discovery.

"Five per cent. of the net revenue to the Territory," he went on to say, "means that the Territory will get nothing at all.

"I know some preceautions are taken to guard the interests of the Territory, such as a provision against having the revenue expended in heavy salaries. Yet there are other ways by which the company can avoid having a net revenue to divide with the Territory. It can make charges for improvements, for depreciation, for interest on indebtedness.

"It is always only too easy for a corporation so to arrange its statements and its books that there shall be no net revenue. The condition is one that leaves open question to dispute. I am not aware of the case of any municipality that has received an income from the net revenue of a corporation holding a franchise with that condition.

"How I could have wished," Mr. Carter remarked, "when connected with the Hawaiian Electric Co., that its two and a half per cent. to the Treasury might be on net instead of gross revenue."

The argument of public benefit from the development of the Kohala water, which was used in the conferences held when he was away, was quoted to Mr. Carter. To this he replied in substance: "We must not hamper capital that is seeking such enterprise. There is no doubt of the great benefit the water would be to the agricultural interests of the country. New lands would be cultivated and incidentally tax-paying property would be increased.

"Yet, besides looking after the direct revenue due to the Territory from such a great privilege, we must protect the small consumers of the water who might otherwise be at the mercy of the large plantation companies."

This last reference was to a statement made at one of the conferences, now mentioned to Mr. Carter, that the tendency of all large irrigation companies was to have their capital stock ultimately held by the chief consumers.

FIREPLACE 20,000 YEARS OLD

LINCOLN, Neb., Oct. 15.—What are believed to be the most ancient evidences of Indian occupancy of the plains of the United States, and are indications of the existence of human life upon this subere anywhere from 20,000 to 50,000 years ago, have just been collected by A. E. Sheldon, an agent of the Nebraska State Historical Society, and are now in the State's museum in this city.

Mr. Sheldon spent nine weeks this summer in riding about the Sioux Indian reservation at Chadron, gathering material for a life of the great chief Red Cloud. At the agency he received a hint that Ulysses Farnham, an Indian boy, had found an ancient Indian fireplace far up in the Bad Lands. Mr. Sheldon rode seventy miles to investigate the story, and found it true. In Lost Dog Canon, some seventy miles north of the Nebraska line, within a few miles of the spot at Wounded Knee Creek where the Indians of North America made what is very likely to be their last stand against the white man, two of these fireplaces were discovered.

Riding through the canon one day, young Farnham noticed a big black spot high up on one of the small buttes. He had the curiosity to examine it and found evidences that it had once been a cooking spot. There were large masses of charcoal, burnt rock, ashes, and other debris. The boy casually mentioned this at home, and it came to the ears of Dr. Walker, agency physician at Pine Ridge, who set the curious Mr. Sheldon on the scent.

The find promises to make a stir among archaelogists as soon as its value becomes known. The question is: How many years ago was this fireplace in use? At that time it must have been on the ground, the black dirt about it proving this. When found it was covered by from five to nine feet of soil, definitely marked in seven or eight strata, which is evidence of its burial.

Immediately about the place is a 4-inch stratum of black dirt. Next this is a lighter soil filled with periwinkles, indicating the presence of water over the spot at the time the soil deposit was made. The problem which archaeologists will meet here is: Was this deposit made immediately after the great drift, when lakes were left at many spots, or does it simply mark the spot of a great overflow? Nobody knows.

The next three of four strata are of varying thicknesses of butte clay, thinner, but well marked. In this section of the soil on exhibition at the museum a distance of eight feet separates the lowest from the top layer. In addition to the years that it has taken for these seven or eight strata to form over the abandoned fireplace, there must also be computed the number necessary to expose it at its present height above the lower level surrounding it. This latter was evidently by erosion. The question is: When, and how long did it take?

The curious formations of the Bad Lands have been the theme of many interesting articles. Through a part of them runs the White River. This stream is fed by numerous little creeks—Lost Dog, Bear in the Lodge, and others of similar descriptive titles. Where the creeks empty into the river these butte formations are found.

The mouth of the canon down which these small streams run widens as it approaches the river, until it forms a circular basin dotted with these odd-shaped, rounded mounds of earth, looking like giant toadstools, the lower parts having been washed by the water at some remote period until they leave each with a gigantic cap.

To add still further years to this relic, the spot where it was made is a sort of tableland leading off one of these buttes, showing it to have been filled up after the original buttes were eroded. It is supposed that at one time this was a land-locked basin, and that the action of the water in seeking an outlet in times of storm caused these washings away.

At the bottom of the canon which contained these old fireplaces, immediately below them, were picked up chipped flints, bits of pottery, and the bones of ten or twelve kinds of animals. The theory is that these were once a part of the fireplace, but the erosion occurring just where it did separated them from the original resting place and deposited them lower.

The presence of the pottery is in itself evidence that the place was used by a tribe that antedated the Sioux, The latter, it is definitely known, have occupied the land of the Dakotas for more than 200 years. As they did not make or use the pottery, the fireplace was not one of theirs, even if it is not as old as the topsoil evidences indicate. The Pawnees were the tribe furthest north to use earthen vessels. The Sioux disdained them.

Careful inquiry was made among the ranchmen in the vicinity of these buttes as to what differences in their physical conformation have been noted. Men who have been in the neighborhood for forty or fifty years say that there is very little change in their outward appearance. Taking this evidence as a basis of calculation, it must have been many centuries ago when the fireplaces were in use.

Science has yet discovered no infallible rule of time measurement as to the deposit of soils, and only conjecture enters into this problem. If the change in half a century has been so slight as to be scarcely noticeable, how many years or centuries did it require to pile seven or eight strata of soil upon the abandoned fireplace, and then by erosion to cut down through these layers of earth so as to expose it again to view?

Anywhere from 20,000 to 50,000 years, says E. E. Blackman, archaeologist of the State Historical Society. Mr. Blackman believes that somewhere in the Western plains will be secured the final evidence which will sustain the claim of science to the many centuries of age made for the earth. At the bottom of a driven well in Kansas, not long ago, were found flints and bones which point to centuries of antiquity, and here and there are uncovered bits of evidence, like this up in Lost Dog Canon, which point to living human occupancy thousands of years ago.

The archives of the State Historical Society give the information that the first known of the Indian population of the great plains regon was gleaned by the Coronado expedition of 1541. On April 23 of that year Francisco Vasquez de Coronado marched from Mexico north to find the fabled land of Quivira.

According to the traditions which had reached the Spanish invaders of the land of the Montezumas, somewhere to the north

(Continued on Page 3.)